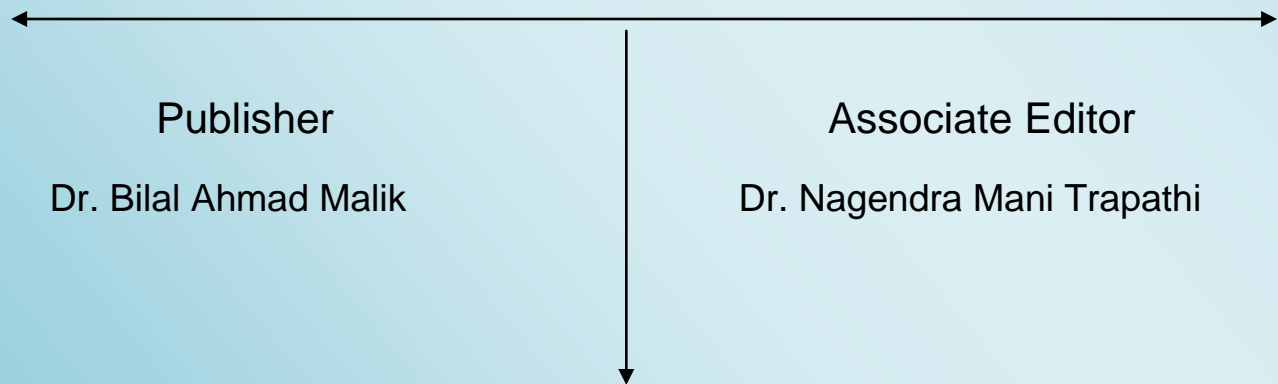


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LITERACY AND EDUCATIONAL PROFILE OF SCHEDULED TRIBES IN ANDHRA PRADESH

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ABSTRACT

Education is a tool of transmission of culture, accumulated knowledge and experience of a society. It is also the tool for economic betterment and societal change. India provides a very interesting case study for social change. A meeting ground of several language families, ethnic groups and a mosaic of cultural patterns, India presents a unique case of sociolinguistic pluralism bound by a single thread of cultural homogeneity. Therefore, common sense would suggest variety rather than uniformity in education, both as an expression of the cultural diversity and as a strategy to meet the diverse needs and aspirations of different cultural groups. But the current concern for uniform design, structure and content of education caters to neither, confuses issues relating to the purpose and goal of education, and is by and large irrelevant to most sectors of society, particularly to the tribal sector.

INTRODUCTION

Andhra Pradesh is the traditional home of nearly 35 tribal groups and most of these communities are found inhabiting in the border areas of Andhra Pradesh in the North and North-East. The list of recognized Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh is furnished in Annexure-III. Identical tribal groups are found in the border areas of Maharashtra in the North and Madhya Pradesh and Orissa in the North-East. Out of 35 recognized Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh, 30 groups are mostly found living in the sprawling 30030 Sq. kms. of Scheduled areas and contiguous non-scheduled sub plan area in the districts of Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Adilabad and Mahboobnagar. The Scheduled area in the State which is the chief habitat of tribal groups of Andhra Pradesh constitutes 11% of the total geographical area of the State. The density of population in tribal areas is 125 persons per Sq. Km. as against 194 in the plain areas. In addition to Scheduled villages, non-scheduled villages on the basis of contiguity

and predominant tribal population are included in Tribal Sub Plan / I.T.D.As. Visakhapatnam District is having highest number of scheduled villages and Mahaboobnagar is having the least. With regard to area, Khammam District is having largest geographical area under scheduled areas.

On the basis of geo-ethnic characteristics, the tribal areas of Andhra Pradesh can be divided into the following five geographical regions.

1. Gond-Kolam Region – the tribal areas of Adilabad district.
2. Koya-Konda Reddi Region – Tribal areas of Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, West Godavari and East Godavari districts – area along Godavari gorges.
3. Khond-Savara Region – Tribal areas of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam districts.
4. Chenchu Region – Tribal areas of Mahaboobnagar, Nalgonda, Kurnool, Prakasam and Guntur districts.
5. Plain Areas – Areas of habitation of Yanadis, Yerukulas and Banjaras or Lambadas.

TRIBALS LITERACY

Table 1 gives the details of literate population and literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes in Andhra Pradesh as per 2011 Census

Table 1
Scheduled Tribes Literate Population and Literacy Rate in Andhra Pradesh- 2011 Census

Sl. No.	District	Scheduled Tribe Population	No. of Literates			S.T. Literacy Rate		
			Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1	Srikakulam	166118	45,731	33,104	78,835	63.46	43.74	53.36
2	Vizianagaram	235556	55,631	41,069	96,700	55.19	38.44	46.57
3	Visakhapatnam	618500	146129	95,453	241582	55.62	34.67	44.9
4	East Godavari	213195	54,850	46,788	101638	59.82	48.75	54.15
5	West Godavari	109072	28,726	26,242	54,968	61.22	53.09	57.05

6	Krishna	132464	35,510	26,652	62,162	61.07	46.24	53.69
7	Guntur	247089	59,459	39,559	99,018	55.26	37.47	46.45
8	Prakasam	151145	35,111	25,804	60,915	53.68	40.4	47.12
9	S.P.S. Nellore	285997	58,051	48,360	106411	46.15	39.34	42.78
10	Y.S.R	75,886	18,875	12,767	31,642	57.39	39.89	48.76
11	Ku rnool	82,831	23,552	15,720	39,272	65.23	44.6	55.04
12	Anantapuram	154127	44,757	29,435	74,192	65.44	44.24	54.98
13	Chittoor	159165	40,982	31,793	72,775	59.36	45.97	52.66
14	Mahabubnagar	364269	83,464	45,555	129019	53.71	30.44	42.29
15	Rangareddy	218757	62,588	41,495	104083	65.73	45.87	56.05
16	Hyderabad	48,937	16,659	12,641	29,300	76.09	62.08	69.34
17	Medak	168985	40,976	22,146	63,122	56.92	32.04	44.73
18	Nizamabad	192941	47,085	28,752	75,837	57.97	34.25	45.92
19	Adilabad	495794	130838	89,084	219922	61.44	41.37	51.35
20	Karimnagar	106745	28,820	20,090	48,910	60.85	42.19	51.49
21	Warangal	530656	136361	90,593	226954	57.81	38.96	48.45
22	Khammam	765565	200493	150974	351467	59.75	43.67	51.59
23	Nalgonda	394279	104938	59,065	164003	59.96	35.56	48.08
Total		5918073	1,499,586	1,033,141	2,532,727	58.3	40.1	49.2

Source: Registrar General, Census of India.

It is evident from table 1 that the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes in 22 out of 23 districts of the state is below the total literacy rate of general population. Hyderabad district registered highest literacy rate of 69.34 per cent, which is higher than literacy rate of state general population. On the other hand Mahabubnagar district registered lowest literacy rate among Scheduled Tribes in the state. In 11 out of 23 districts the literacy rate of Scheduled Tribes is lower than the total ST literacy rate of the district. The male ST literacy rate is 58.3 per cent

and it is far behind in case of female (40.1 per cent). With regard to male literacy rate also the Hyderabad district occupies the first place with 76.09 per cent. It is followed by Rangareddy (65.73 per cent) and Ananthapuramu (65.44 per cent) districts. Even with regard female literacy rate Hyderabad district stood at the top of ladder with 62.08 per cent and followed by West Godavari (53.09 per cent) and East Godavari (48.75 per cent) districts in that order. The lowest male and female literacy is registered in the SPS Nellore district (46.15) and Mahabubnagar district (30.44) respectively.

TRIBAL WELFARE

In Andhra Pradesh Tribal Welfare department was established in 1962 to assist tribal population in education, economic development and other programs. The Scheduled areas extends over 31,485.34 sq.kms which is about 11% of total area of the State with 5,948 villages spread in Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Khammam, Warangal, Adilabad and Mahabubnagar districts. There are 35 ST communities living in the State. The Government has accorded high priority for accelerated development of tribals by implementing socio economic development programmes with special reference to educational development. Major focus is on education, health and land based schemes.

The particulars with regard to registered tribal welfare schools in different districts of the state are detailed in table 2.

Table 2
District wise Tribal Schools Registered

S. No	District Name	Number of Schools Registered	No of Students
1	Srikakulam	293	18797
2	Vizianagaram	500	29166
3	Visakhapatnam	822	72628
4	East Godavari	366	27195
5	West Godavari	160	9366
6	Krishna	21	2006

7	Guntur	50	4537
8	Prakasam	66	4086
9	Spsr Nellore	53	4460
10	Chittoor	34	3781
11	Ysr Kadapa	14	2124
12	Anantapur	26	3472
13	Kurnool	29	3750
14	Mahabubnagar	55	12118
15	Ranga Reddy	28	5693
16	Hyderabad	15	2727
17	Medak	32	4427
18	Nizamabad	29	3455
19	Adilabad	1093	73734
20	Karimnagar	35	5101
21	Warangal	314	30381
22	Khammam	600	50602
23	Nalgonda	83	20282
24	Srisailam ITDA	182	7481
Total		4900	401369

Source: Statistical Abstract of Andhra Pradesh- 2013-14.

The data in table 2 shows that nearly 61.53 per cent of Tribal schools were registered in four districts namely Adilabad, Khammam, Visakhapatnam and Vizianagaram. In 10 districts of the state the share registered schools to total ST schools is less than 1 per cent. With regard to strength of ST students the four districts namely Adilabad, Visakhapatnam, Khammam and Warangal absorbed 56.64 per cent of total students. Lowest strength in ST schools is registered in Krishna district.

ASHRAM SCHOOLS AND HOSTELS

The Ashram schools were established with the objective to provide residential schools for Scheduled Tribes including PTGs in an environment conducive to learning to increase the literacy rate among the tribal students and to bring them at par with other population of the country. The scheme is in operation since 1990-91 and has been revised w. e. f. the financial year 2008-09. This is a centrally sponsored scheme and is operational in the Tribal sub-Plan States/UT Administrations. The scheme covers primary, middle, secondary and senior secondary level of education.. Under the revised scheme, State Governments are eligible for 100% funding for establishment of Ashram Schools (i.e. school buildings, hostels, kitchen and staff quarters) for girls in TSP areas and also for construction of Boys' Ashram Schools in TSP areas in naxal affected areas (identified by Ministry of Home Affairs from time to time). The funding pattern for the other Boys' ashram Schools is on 50:50 basis, while cent percent assistance is given to UTs for construction of both Girls' and Boys' Ashram Schools. Financial assistance on 50:50 basis is given for other non-recurring items of expenditure i.e. purchase of equipment, furniture and furnishing, purchase of few sets of books for a small library for use of inmates of the hostels etc. Table 3 represents District wise Government Hostels and Ashram Schools for Scheduled Tribes, in Andhra Pradesh for the year 2013-14.

Table 3
District-Wise Government Hostels and Ashram Schools for Scheduled Tribes, 2013-14

Sl. No	District	Hostels				Ashram Schools			
		No.	Strength			No.	Strength		
			Boys	Girls	Total		Boys	Girls	Total
1	Srikakulam	3	343	-	343	44	6,001	5,823	11,824
2	Vizianagaram	6	477	318	795	54	8,991	6,031	15,022
3	Visakhapatnam	11	1,837	255	2,092	110	21,967	18,879	40,846
4	East Godavari	23	2,028	906	2,934	81	7,922	8,937	16,859
5	West Godavari	9	312	296	608	37	1,943	2,686	4,629
6	Krishna	18	698	477	1,175	0	69	0	69

7	Guntur	31	2,971	1,396	4,367	0	185	593	778
8	Prakasam	21	1,620	602	2,222	17	1,169	1,162	2,331
9	S.P.S. Nellore	23	1,388	799	2,187	0	0	246	246
10	Y.S.R	10	703	309	1,012	0	27	23	50
11	Kurnool	10	849	251	1,100	10	595	684	1,279
12	Anantapuram	17	915	687	1,602	0	117	0	117
13	Chittoor	15	1,045	348	1,393	0	105	0	105
14	Mahabubnagar	21	3,925	1,551	5,476	16	2,425	2,072	4,497
15	Rangareddy	12	1,826	596	2422	4	549	850	1,399
16	Hyderabad	7	403	176	579	0	0	0	0
17	Medak	15	1,416	480	1,896	4	180	144	324
18	Nizamabad	13	1,029	235	1264	3	581	-	581
19	Adilabad	7	1,502	-	1,502	116	20,361	17,181	37,542
20	Karimnagar	12	793	339	1,132	14	883	935	1,818
21	Warangal	41	5,952	3,093	9,045	39	3016	5,880	8,896
22	Khammam	45	3,338	5502	8,840	74	13,176	11,091	24,267
23	Nalgonda	41	9,963	2,285	12,248	11	690	2,141	2,831
Total		411	45333	20901	66234	634	90952	85358	176310

Source: Statistical Abstract of Andhra Pradesh- 2013-14.

Table 3 shows that there are 411 Hostels with strength of 66,234 students and 634 Ashram Schools with strength of 176,310 during the year 2013-14. In Ashram schools the percentage of girls is satisfactory and in hostels the strength of girls is limited. In Ashram schools 48.41 per cent of students were girls and in hostels only 31.56 per cent of students were girls. With regard number hostels the Khammam district tops the list with 45 tribal welfare hostels. In this regard it is followed by Warangal and Nalgonda districts with 41 hostels each in third and fourth places respectively. In Srikakulam district there is lowest number (3) of ST hostels. With regard

to total strength in ST hostels Nalgonda district occupies first place with 12, 248 students. With regard to total strength in ST hostels Nalgonda district occupies first place with 12, 248 students. With regard to Ashram schools the Adilabad district stood at the top of ladder with 116 schools. In 7 out of 23 districts there are no Ashram schools. In the Ashram schools of Visakhapatnam highest strength of 40, 846 was registered.

EKLAVYA MODEL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOLS

In the context of the trend of establishing quality residential schools for the promotion of education in all areas and habitations in the country, the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) for ST students take their place among the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas, the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas and the Kendriya Vidyalayas. Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) are set up in States/UTs with grants under Article 275(1) of the Constitution of India.

The objective of EMRS is to provide quality middle and high level education to Scheduled Tribe (ST) students in remote areas, not only to enable them to avail of reservation in high and professional educational courses and as jobs in government and public and private sectors but also to have access to the best opportunities in education at par with the non ST population. This would be achieved by:

- ☞ Comprehensive physical, mental and socially relevant development of all students enrolled in each and every EMRS. Students will be empowered to be change agent, beginning in their school, in their homes, in their village and finally in a larger context.
- ☞ Focus differentially on the educational support to be made available to those in Standards XI and XII, and those in standards VI to X, so that their distinctive needs can be met,
- ☞ Support the annual running expenses in a manner that offers reasonable remuneration to the staff and upkeep of the facilities.
- ☞ Support the construction of infrastructure that provides education, physical, environmental and cultural needs of student life.

Table 4 gives the particulars of Ekalavya Institutions in different districts of Andhra Pradesh State.

Table 4
District Wise, Category Wise List of Institutions in the Year 2013-14

Sl. No.	District	Ekalavya Model Residential Institutions				Grand Total
		RS		RJC		
		B	G	B	G	
1	Khammam	0	0	0	0	0
2	Warangal	0	1	0	1	2
3	Adilabad	0	0	1	0	1
4	Karimnagar	1	1	1	1	4
5	Mahaboobnagar	1	0	1	0	2
6	Nizamabad	1	0	1	0	2
7	Ranga Reddy	0	0	0	0	0
8	Nalgonda	0	0	0	0	0
9	Medak	0	0	0	0	0
10	Srikakulam	0	0	0	0	0
11	Vizianagaram	0	0	0	0	0
12	Visakhapatnam	1	0	0	0	1
13	East Godavari	0	1	0	1	2
14	West Godavari	0	0	0	0	0
15	Krishna	0	0	0	0	0
16	Guntur	0	0	0	0	0
17	Prakasam	0	1	0	0	1
18	Nellore	0	1	0	1	2
19	Chittoor	0	0	0	0	0

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20	Kurnool	0	0	0	0	0
21	Anantapur	0	0	0	0	0
22	Kadapa	0	0	0	0	0
Total		4	5	4	4	17

Source: APTWREIS

As per table 4 there are 17 Ekalavya Model Residential Institutions in the state. Among them 9 are residential schools and 8 are residential junior colleges. Among the boys residential schools 3 are located in Telangana area and in coastal area. With regard to girls residential 2 are established in Telangana and 3 were established in coastal districts. All the four residential junior colleges were located in Telangana districts and 2 girls' residential junior colleges were also established in Telangana area. The remaining 2 girls residential junior colleges were located in coastal area.

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